

THE REHEARSAL.

What it is that Swells the *Martyrology* of the Kirk.
 No *Liturgy*, *Ceremonies*, or *Habits* Impos'd in *Scotland* after the *Restoration*.
 1660.
 Why this Provok'd the *Presbyterians*, and what use they made of it.
 What brought on the *Laws* against *Field-Meetings*; which yet *Restrain'd* not
Conscience.
 They wou'd not *Accept* of the *King's* *Indulgence*.
 The more he *Indulg'd*, they were the *Readier* to *Rebel*.
 Neither *Indulgence* nor *Severity* the way with these men. How *K. Char. 2.*
 at last *Overcame* them.

WEDNESDAY, November 19. 1707.

Country-man. YOU broke off last time, Master, with the *Scotch-Presbyterians* in the *Reign* of *K. Char. 2.* I remember right one of the *Reviews* makes them 18000.

Rehearsal. They were twice in *Open Rebellion* after the *Restoration* of that *Prince*, and fought it in the *Field*, once at *Pentlands-Hills*, and after at *Bothwell-Bridge*. And there *Slain* in *Battel* are *Inrol'd* by them as *Martyrs*. For are not they *Martyrs*, who *Dye* for the *Good Old Cause*? Nothing to *Depose Kings*, and *Murder Bishops*, that was all (*Good men*) that they meant, and to *Worship God* in *Purity*!

Country-m. But were ther not *Great Severities* us'd against them, to *Provoke* them this?

(2.) *Rehearsal*. So far from it, That no *Religion* be *Produc'd* wherein *Greater Lenity* was us'd towards them. For first, in *Compliance* with that *Tenderness* of *Conscience* to which they *Pretended*, there was no *Liturgy* in *Scotland*, nor *Ceremonies*, nor *Habits*, after the *Restoration*. Inasmuch, that a *Stranger* cou'd not know an *Episcopal* from a *Presbyterian Church*, by any thing he cou'd see or *Observe* there.

Country-m. This was as much as cou'd be *Ask'd*, or *Cou'd* be *Granted*: So *Pleas'd* them, and they were very *Content*, and very *Thankful*.

(3.) *Rehearsal*. No. *Country-man*, That *Method* never *Works* with the *Presbyterians* but the way, that is, to *Embolden* them the more, make them more *Fierce* and *Zealous*; *Stone* moves the *Swifter*, the nearer it comes to its *Center*. They had now but one

Step more to go, which was to get rid of the *Name* of *Episcopacy*, that being all was left among them. And they *Constru'd* this *Great Condescension* of the *Government* towards them (as most *Rebellious* men think) to have *Proceeded* out of *Fear*: And then the *Natural* method is to *Bully* still the more, since nothing must be *Refus'd* them! Hence their *Conventicles* *Swarm'd* all over the *Nation*, and in such *Numbers* as no *Meeting-Houses* cou'd hold them. Thence they *De-Camp'd* into the *Fields*, with 5, 6, 7, or 8000, at a time, and *Arm'd* too, where they *Committed* many *Outrages*, and *Terrify'd* all whom they thought not their *Friends*. The *Common Theme* of their *Declamations* was against the *Bishops* and *Curats*, whom they *Represented* as *Limbs* of *Anti-Christ*, and *Prejudic'd* their *Hearers* to the *Utmost* against them; And against the *King & Government* for *Supporting* them. Which they call'd *Opposing* the *Kingdom* of *Christ*, that is, *Presbytery*. And for this they thought the *King* had *forfeited* his *Crown*. And some of them went so far as to set up *Declarations* on the *Market Cross* of *Royal-Burroughs* (particularly at *Sanguhar*) at *Noon Day*, and with *Companies* of *Armed Men*, that *Charles Stuart* was no longer their *King*, that it was every man's *Duty* to *Kill* him, and not only him, but all his *Servants*, or any that own'd his *Government*. Pursuant to which they have *Murder'd* *Soldiers* *Travelling* the *Road*, for no other *Reason* but because they saw the *King's Livery* upon their *Backs*. They *Shot* one *Bishop* in the *Streets* of *Edinburgh* in his *Coach* at *Noon Day*, and miserably *Massacred* the *Arch-Bishop* of *St. Andrews* on the *High-way*. With many other *Barbarous* things too long here to be told.

Country-

Country-m. What Care did the Government take in this Terrible Case?

(4.) Rehears. Laws were made against these Field-Meetings under Severe Penalties. But yet, for the Ease of their Tender Consciences, the King did Indulge about Two of their Chief Preachers, and gave their Hearers leave to go to them, with full Liberty, and Competent Numbers, but not in Armies to the Terror of the Country.

Country-m. This was Gracious indeed. And I suppose Quieted all these Heats. For Conscience could Ask no more than this full Liberty.

(5.) Rehears. You speak of your own Conscience. But ther is a Conscience cannot be Satisfy'd but with having full Power. And such Consciences must not let things be Quieted, till they have Gain'd that Power. Therefor they Rais'd a new Clamour against such of their own Preachers as did Accept of this Indulgence, and call'd them Council-Curats, a Name of more Contempt with them, than the Bishops-Curats. In short, they Spurn'd at this Indulgence, and call'd the Accepting of it Betraying the Cause of Christ, for why shou'd they be Beholden to an Earthly King, for what was Granted them by Christ? And they Refus'd to be limited not to meet Where, When, and How they Pleas'd, but in what Numbers, and with Armes too, for their own Defence. Till at last they were Able to Meet the King's Armes in the Field, and Oblig'd him to stake his Life and Crown at the Hazard of a Battle. And this a second time, and having been thus Indulg'd after their first Defeat at *Pewsey*. But they Try'd it over again with him, some years after at *Batle Bridge*. After all which he Spar'd many of them, who Return'd their Thanks in the same Manner, to his Unfortunate Brother, and for fresh Favours Receiv'd from him, which they Acknowledg'd in most Loyal Addresses, and taking God to Witness the Sincerity of their Hearts.

(6.) Country-m. Out upon 'em! Is this the Right they think so much for their Advantage to Mention? Where ther is all Condescension and Indulgence on the one hand, and on the other nothing but Hypocrisy and Rebellion. Such Obstinate Rebellion as forc'd the Government to Secure it self by new Laws; which yet touch'd no Conscience, but of him who was Resolv'd to Rebel, of such a one as cou'd not Worship God, if the King Gave him Leave, and without Thousands in Arms at his back! And who suffer'd by these Just and Necessary Laws, they Entol'd into the Number of their Martyrs! Murders of Rebellion, and Incurable Obstinacy!

Rehears. Not so Incurable neither. But at last they stood Corretted.

Country-m. Pray, how Master? For according to the Description you have given of them, neither Indulgence nor Severity would work upon them.

(7.) Rehears. No, Country-man, Neither For Neither, was the way, Over Indulgence except to very Grateful Minds, and will have no Design, will Embolden, and make Men Grow upon you, till you shall be Forc'd to use Severity, to make them know their Distance, or else let them Over-run all. This Provokes them, and a new Indulgence do's but Enable them to Prosecute their Design. The King at last found out the Root of their Disease, they had Friends at Court, who, to make themselves Considerable as Flocks of a Dangerous Parblew up the common People, and gave the Hopes of coming into Play again, and Prevailing at last, if they wou'd but stand it out a while, and that they wou'd screen them in the mean time. Then when any new Favour was Granted, they took this for a sure Argument of the Power of their Patrons, to whom they gave their Thanks, and not to the King. Therefore the King, the three last years of his Life took new Measures, that was, to be steady, and he quickly let them know, That they might live Easy and Quiet if they pleas'd, but all Hopes of their coming into Play was taken from them, and their Power no longer Interest at Court. Upon which they presently let their Meetings drop, and when that King dy'd, ther was not I am told, one of them to be seen in the whole Kingdom.

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